

ISRAEL 1948-1954  
Highlights of Events

*Preliminary Stage*

1947

- Nov. 29 The United Nations General Assembly, by a vote of 33 to 13 with 11 abstentions, resolved upon the partition of Palestine into a Jewish State, and Arab State, and an International Zone of Jerusalem, the three parts to be held together in an economic union, this settlement to come into force upon the termination of the British Mandate on May 15, 1948. "Any attempt to alter by force the settlement envisaged" to be regarded as "a threat to the peace," according to the General Assembly's resolution.
- 30 Arabs set fire to the Jewish Commercial Center in Jerusalem. Arab attacks on Jews begin throughout the country, with the assistance of thousands of irregular Arab soldiers from neighboring countries infiltrating into Palestine as "volunteers."

1948

- March 1 The National Council of Palestine Jews (Vaad Leumi) decides to set up a National Council and a National Administration which are to constitute, upon termination of the Mandate, the provisional organs of the State in accordance with the United Nations resolution. Jerusalem besieged by Arab forces and cut off from the coast.
- April 1-20 "Operation Nahshon": Three great convoys break through to Jerusalem providing the besieged and starving population with food, arms and ammunition. Abdul Kadr el Husseini, Arab commander of the Jerusalem area, killed in the battle of Castel, on the Jerusalem road.

- 10 The United Nations Palestine Commission, charged by the November 29, 1947 resolution with its implementation, reports to the General Assembly that: "The Jewish Agency for Palestine cooperated with the Commission in its task of implementing the Assembly's resolution. The governments of the Arab States and the Arab Higher Committee not only withheld their cooperation from the Commission but actively opposed the Assembly's resolution. As the Commission reported to the Security Council in its first Special Report (S/676) on February 16, 1948, 'Powerful Arab interests, both inside and outside Palestine, are defying the resolution of the General Assembly and are engaged in a deliberate effort to alter by force the settlement envisaged therein.' Armed Arab bands from neighboring Arab States have infiltrated into the territory of Palestine and together with local Arab forces are defeating the purposes of the resolution by acts of violence."
- 15-17 The battle of Mishmar Haemek (settlement in the Valley of Esdraelon). The defeated Arab "Yarmuk Army," under the command of Fawzi el Kaukji, flees towards Jenin, in the Arab "Triangle" (Nablus, Jenin, Tulkarm).
- 21-22 After a twenty-four hour battle, Haifa is brought under the control of Haganah (Jewish Defense Force).
- 26-28 Haifa District British Police Headquarters report that every effort is being made by the Jews to persuade the Arab populace to stay and carry on with their normal lives, to get their shops and businesses open and assure them that their lives and interests will be saved." However, "Arab leaders reiterated their determination to evacuate the entire Arab population."

May At its special session, the United Nations General Assembly considered and rejected a proposal for establishing United Nations control over Jerusalem on the termination of the Mandate on May 15, 1948. Thus, when the Mandatory Government withdrew, Jerusalem found the United Nations unable or unwilling to provide for its administration and security. This inaction on the part of the United Nations, followed by the siege and horrors of war, brought

about the integration of Jerusalem into the systems of order and defense of Israel and Jordan respectively.

### *Statehood*

May 14

At a meeting of the thirty seven member National Council, representing the Jews of Palestine and the World Zionist Movement, held in Tel Aviv, Mr. DAVID BEN-GURION READS THE PROCLAMATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MEDINAT YISRAEL, THE STATE OF ISRAEL. The Proclamation of Independence declares that:

"THE STATE OF ISRAEL will be open to the immigration of Jews from all countries of their dispersion; will promote the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; will be based on the principles of liberty, justice and peace as conceived by the Prophets of Israel; will uphold the full social and political equality of all its citizens, without distinction of religion, race or sex; will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, education and culture; will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and will loyally uphold the principles of the United Nations Charter."

Pending the setting up of duly elected organs of State, the Proclamation designated the National Council to act as the Provisional Council of State—the Legislature; and the National Administration to act as the Provisional Government responsible to the former. The thirteen member Cabinet, comprising representatives of the political parties, is headed by Mr. David Ben-Gurion as Prime Minister and Minister of Defense.

First legislative act of the Provisional Council of State: the repeal of the 1939 British White Paper restricting Jewish immigration and acquisition of land. Hakirya, near Tel Aviv, established as the provisional seat of Government.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN INFORMS THE ISRAEL REPRESENTATIVE IN WASHINGTON, MR. ELIAHU ELATH, OF THE UNITED STATES DE FACTO RECOGNITION OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL. Armies of Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Saudi-Arabia and Lebanon invade Israel from the north, east, and

south, in accordance with a joint decision taken by the Arab states on April 25.

Military situation on the outbreak of hostilities: Israel forces control the New City of Jerusalem and the encircled Jewish Quarter in the Old City; isolated settlements in the Negev and in the Judean Hills; the Coastal Plain, the Valleys of Esdraelon and Beisan, and Eastern Galilee.

Tel Aviv bombed by Egyptian planes.

15 Beginning of free immigration into Israel.

16 Dr. Chaim Weizmann elected President of Provisional Council of State.

First defeat of Egyptian Army; repulsed at Nirim, in the Negev.

17 Israel forces capture stronghold in Upper Galilee.

24 Israel accepts Security Council's Cease Fire order.

26 Arab States reject Security Council's Cease Fire order.

27 Israel Defense Army established by law.

28 Jews in the Old City of Jerusalem surrender to Arab Legion. Jews in the beleaguered New City stand firm.

15-31 5,000 immigrants arrive. Six new settlements established in the Beisan Valley, the Emek, the Negev and in Galilee.

June 1 After delays the Arab States agree to a four weeks' truce.

4 First naval battle; Egyptian fleet driven from Tel Aviv coast.

11 First truce begins. The Arab attempt to achieve a quick victory has failed. No major Israel position has surrendered. The armies of the Arab States have been forced back on the defensive.

Truce came when the Israel forces had just reached top form and begun to swing over to counter-attack. During the fighting the "Burma Road," an alternate route to Jerusalem, has been constructed. Never again is Jerusalem to be cut off from other parts of the State. The new State has succeeded in establishing its administration and organizing the services essential to a modern community.

28 Soldiers, sailors and airmen take oath of allegiance to the State of Israel; completion of the process of

- transforming the Haganah into the Defense Army of Israel.
- 30 The British complete their withdrawal from Palestine with the departure of last British forces from Haifa.
- July 8 Israel accepts United Nations proposal to extend truce; Arab States reject it.
- 9 Four weeks' truce ends; hostilities resumed.
- 11 Arabs bomb Jerusalem from the air for the first time.
- 16-17 Israel troops break through Old City Wall in Jerusalem, but withdraw as Jerusalem truce starts on the 17th.
- 18 Second truce starts.
- The second truce came at the height of Israel's offensive. Most of Israel's territory is cleared of the invaders.
- Aug. 16 Israel Pound becomes legal tender.
- Egyptian and Jordanian forces continue to shell Jerusalem and other places in violation of the truce. Arabs blow up Latrun pumping station while it is under United Nations control.
- Sept. 14 Supreme Court of Israel inaugurated in Jerusalem.
- Oct. In defiance of the truce provisions and explicit decisions of the United Nations Truce authorities, the Egyptians refuse passage to Israel convoys to the Negev settlements.
- Repeated Egyptian attacks on Israel positions in the Negev.
- 15-21 War in the Negev. Fighting starts with an Egyptian attack on an Israel supply convoy.
- Road to the Negev opened by the Israel Army. Beer-sheba under Israel control. The flagship of the Egyptian Navy, the "King Farouk," sunk by the Israel Navy.
- 22 Cease-fire comes into effect in the Negev.
- Fawzi Kaukji's "Arab Liberation Army" attacks Israel lines in Northern Galilee.
- 30 Arab forces driven from the Galilee area.
- 31 Cease-fire in Galilee.
- Nov. 8 First Israel National Census. Total population: 782,000; 713,000 Jews and 69,000 others.

- 16 Resolution adopted by the Security Council calling upon the parties to the Palestine conflict to initiate Armistice agreements.
- 29 On the First Anniversary of the United Nations Resolution on the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine—Israel formally applies for United Nations membership.
- Dec. 7. Jerusalem "Road of Valor" through the Judean hills is opened.
- 23 Egypt's retraction from her agreement to armistice talks, accompanied by systematic attacks on settlements in the Negev, leads to second Negev flare-up.

## 1949

- Jan. Israel forces cross Egyptian frontier into Sinai and reach airfields near El-Arish in pursuit of Egyptians. After inflicting damage on Egyptian installations and bases from which attacks on Israel had been launched, Israel troops withdraw to their own side of the frontier.
- 7 Israel Egyptian Cease Fire comes into effect. Egypt agrees to enter negotiation with Israel concerning an Armistice agreement.
- 13 Dr. Bunche, acting United Nations Mediator, opens Armistice talks between Israel and Egypt on the Isle of Rhodes.
- 25 Israel citizens elect their first 120-member legislative assembly, to be called "Knesset," on the basis of general suffrage and proportional representation. 440,095 votes cast—86.8% of those eligible to vote. Following are the results: Mapai—35.7% of the votes (46 seats); Mapam—14.8% (19 seats); Religious Bloc—12.2% (16 seats); Herut (Freedom Party)—11.5% (14 seats); General Zionists—5.2% (7 seats); Progressive Party—4.1% (5 seats); Communists—3.6% (4 seats); Sephardim—3.5% (4 seats); Nazereth Democrats (Arabs)—1.7% (2 seats); Fighters Party—1.2%, (1 seat); Yemenites—1.0%, (1 seat) WIZO—1.2%, (1 seat); Revisionists—0.7% (no seats).
- Feb. 14 Dr. Chaim Weizmann opens first "Knesset" session in Jerusalem.

- 16 Knesset adopts the TRANSITION LAW called the "Small Constitution." Under this act, Israel is constituted as a Democratic Republic with a single chamber legislature. The President of the State is elected by secret ballot by the Knesset. The Government is responsible collectively to the Knesset and continues in office as long as it retains its confidence.  
Dr. Chaim Weizmann elected Israel's first President.
- 24 ISRAEL-EGYPTIAN ARMISTICE signed at Rhodes.
- March 3 First Constitutional Israel Government formed by Mr. David Ben-Gurion. In the Coalition Cabinet Mapai has 7 seats; the Religious Bloc—3; the Progressive Party—1; the Shephardim—1.
- 10 Government 10-point program approved by the Knesset; "The Ingathering of the Exiles" is the main aim of the Government. The program features a 4-year development and absorption plan aimed at doubling Israel's population; cooperation with the United Nations; peace and cooperation between Israel and her Arab neighbors; free and compulsory education for all her children; complete civic equality for women.
- 12 Israel flag hoisted on the coast of Elat. The Negev under Israel's control.
- 23 ISRAEL-LEBANON ARMISTICE agreement signed.
- April 3 ISRAEL-TRANSJORDAN ARMISTICE agreement signed at Rhodes.
- 22 Hebrew University activities, suspended early in 1948 because of hostilities in the Mount Scopus region and enlistment of students in the Army, reopened at temporary quarters in Jerusalem.
- May 4 FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. 218,000 IMMIGRANTS ARRIVED DURING THE FIRST YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE.
- 11 ISRAEL ADMITTED TO THE UNITED NATIONS AS THE 59TH MEMBER. FIFTY EIGHT STATES HAVE RECOGNIZED THE STATE OF ISRAEL SINCE THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.
- 17 Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School opens in Jerusalem.

- July 20 ISRAEL-SYRIAN ARMISTICE agreement signed. Armistice Agreement concluded with each of Israel's neighboring States. According to these agreements, the territory under the jurisdiction of the State of Israel extends over approximately 21,000,000 dunams (8,048 sq. miles, about 80% of the area of Palestine under the British Mandate.) The terms of the armistice agreements and the boundaries fixed by them can be changed only by mutual consent, unless they are replaced by freely negotiated peace treaties. Mixed Armistice Commissions presided over by members of the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization to supervise the implementation of the agreements.
- Aug. 14-17 The remains of Dr. Theodor Herzl, father of Political Zionism and founder of the World Zionist Organization, exhumed from his grave in Vienna and laid to rest on "Mount Herzl" in Jerusalem.
- Sept. 8 DEFENSE SERVICE (Conscription) LAW passed by Knesset. Men between the ages of 18 and 29 are liable to regular army service for a period of 24 months (an August 26, 1952 amendment extended the period to 30 months) and unmarried women aged between 18 and 26 for a period of 12 months. (The amendment of February 9, 1950, makes women liable to 24 months' service). The act also contains provisions for reserve service, for a period of seven days to one month for men up to 49 years, and for women without children up to 34 years of age. The first 12 months of the regular service, after basic military training, is to be devoted mainly to agricultural training.
- 12 Knesset passes COMPULSORY EDUCATION LAW providing for free and compulsory education for all children between the ages of 5 and 13, and evening classes for working youth between 14 and 17 years, who have not completed their elementary education.
- Nov. 2 Weizmann Institute of Science inaugurated at Rehovot. The Institute comprises the Daniel Sieff Research Institute, the Institute for Physics and Physical Chemistry, the Institute of Experimental Biology



and Biochemistry and a workshop for precision instruments. Some fifty scientists from all over the world are on the staff.

20 JEWISH POPULATION IN ISRAEL REACHES ONE MILLION MARK.

Dec. 28 The Knesset approves ratification of the United Nations Genocide Convention.

31 243,538 IMMIGRANTS ARRIVED IN ISRAEL DURING 1949, AND 99 NEW AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENTS WERE ESTABLISHED.

## 1950

Jan. 23 Knesset proclaims that Jerusalem has resumed its status as the Capital of the State with the Proclamation of Israel's Independence on May 14, 1948.

March 29 THE KNESSET PASSES THE LAW FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF CAPITAL INVESTMENT. The Law grants special privileges to private investors who contribute to the country's development. These privileges include among others: exemption of new buildings from property tax for five years, with another five years' exemption on buildings in underdeveloped areas; certain relief from income tax; exemption from customs duty on equipment and raw materials, as well as on property transferred by immigrants; concessions to investors in regard to foreign exchange.

May 25 UNITED STATES, BRITAIN AND FRANCE issue joint statement on arms supply to Arab States and Israel "for the purpose of assuring internal security and legitimate defense."  
 "The Three Governments, should they find any of these states preparing to violate the frontiers or armistice lines, would, consistent with their obligations as members of the United Nations, immediately take action both in and outside the United Nations to prevent such a violation."  
 This statement is regarded as a guarantee of the armistice frontiers.

	28	Israel submits plans to the United Nations for international guardianship over the Holy Places.
June	13	The Knesset votes in favor of a Constitution by evolution. "The Constitution shall be constructed article by article, in such a manner that each of them shall in itself constitute a fundamental law."
	14	United Nations Trusteeship Council formally admits failure to implement the Statue of the Internationalization of Jerusalem and reports to the United Nations General Assembly on Israel's plan for international guardianship over the Holy Places. In submitting the Israel plan to the General Assembly of the U.N., Mr. Rober Garreau, President of the Trusteeship Council emphasized its "Spirit of Conciliation and the understanding and benevolent attitude towards the legitimate demands of all parties concerned."
	18	Water reaches Jerusalem through new pipeline.
July	5	"LAW OF THE RETURN," GRANTING THE RIGHT TO EVERY JEW TO IMMIGRATE TO ISRAEL, PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE KNESSET.
Aug.	1	LAW FOR THE PREVENTION OF CHILD MARRIAGES, fixing the minimum marriage age for girls at 17 years, passed by the Knesset.
	24	"OPERATION MAGIC CARPET," which by airlift brought 45,000 Jews into Israel from Yemen since the end of 1948, is officially concluded.
	27	The Third Maccabia—the World Jewish Olympics—is inaugurated by Mr. Joseph Sprinzak, Speaker of the Knesset and Acting President, at the Ramat-Gan Stadium.
Sept.	3- 6	First Jerusalem Economic Conference of American Jewish leaders, called by Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion and the Chairman of the Jewish Agency opens in Jerusalem. The Conference is presented with a three year plan for the absorption of 600,000 new immigrants.
Oct.	19	Israel elected member of the 14-nation Peace Observation Commission, under the United Nations "United Action for Peace" resolution.

- 29 THE NATIONAL PLANNING CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN JEWRY, held in Washington, D.C., unanimously adopts a resolution for a three-year plan of immigration and economic development of Israel, involving the raising of \$1,000,000 in the U.S. In addition to strengthening United Jewish Appeal, the Conference resolved to stimulate private investment in Israel and to support the decision of the Government of Israel to float a \$5000,000,000 Independence Bond Issue in the U. S. A.
- Nov. 14-15 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS held throughout Israel, with the following results: Histadrut list (mainly Mapai) obtains 27.3% of the votes; General Zionists 20.2%; Mapam 11.5%; Religious Bloc and local religious tickets 13%; Freedom Party 10.3%; Communists 2.4%.
- 15 United Nations General Assembly rejects Belgian resolution reaffirming the principle of the Internalization of Jerusalem, and establishing a negotiating committee for its implementation. By rejecting this resolution and avoiding any other action, the General Assembly clearly indicates that the Internationalization of Jerusalem is no longer regarded as advisable.
- Dec. 31 169,493 IMMIGRANTS ARRIVED IN ISRAEL AND 93 NEW SETTLEMENTS WERE ESTABLISHED DURING 1950.

## 1951

- Feb. 14- Government resigns following its defeat in the Knesset by an adverse vote of 49 to 42 on the issue of the education of immigrant children. In accordance with the "Small Constitution," Mr. Ben-Gurion's Cabinet remains in office as a caretaker government until a new government is formed after elections.
- March 4
- Feb. 26 POINT FOUR AGREEMENT signed by the United States and Israel, under which Israel will receive technical assistance in a variety of development fields.
- 27 THE INDEPENDENCE LOAN BILL, authorizing the Government to float a bond issue aggregating \$500,000,000, passed by the Knesset.

March 11

Israel's demand for \$1,500,000,000 AS RECOMPENSE PAYMENT from Germany on account of an estimated \$6,000,000,000 of "Jewish property confiscated and plundered by the Germans" during the Nazi regime, is presented to the Governments of the United States, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and France. The four Governments are "urgently requested not to hand over full powers to any German Government without express reservations having been made for payments or reparations to Israel." This general request does not include the claims of individual Jews for restitution of their property in Germany.

March-  
June

#### THE HULEH DRAINAGE SCHEME

The Huleh Basin is a narrow malaria-ridden valley of some 45,000 acres, in the northeast corner of Israel, on the Syrian border. The concession to drain and irrigate the valley was acquired by a Jewish company in 1934, but development work was interrupted during the Arab disturbances in 1936-39 and subsequently by World War II. During the Arab war against Israel in 1948, the Syrian army invaded the Huleh but later withdrew after the Syrian-Israel Armistice Agreement of July, 1949. The whole area is thus in Israel territory, though one small section was demilitarized by the Armistice Agreement.

In October, 1950, drainage work in the Huleh area was resumed with the full knowledge of the Syrians and of the UN Chairman of the Israel-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission. However, in January, 1951, the Syrian Government objected to the drainage of the Huleh Basin, claiming that it would confer a military advantage on Israel contrary to the terms of the Armistice Agreement. This charge was rejected by General William E. Riley, Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, who declared that "in draining Lake Huleh the Israelis will not enjoy any military advantages not equally applicable to the Syrians."

On the Syrian side, force was used in an attempt to halt drainage operations, and sporadic firing flared up into more serious fighting during the course of March, April and May. Fighting came to an end after

the Security Council's adoption of a Cease Fire Resolution. The Security Council also condemned a retaliatory bombing by Israel, and subsequently the Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization placed it on record that regular Syrian troops had been involved in the fighting, both in the demilitarized zone and in non-demilitarized Israel territory. The U. N. Chief of Staff authorized the continuation of drainage work in the demilitarized zone, except on small strips of land aggregating  $6\frac{1}{4}$  acres whose Arab owners would not agree to any form of compensation for land. Work on the drainage scheme is now being completed and will open up a large area for agricultural development.

May 3-31 Prime Minister David Ben Gurion visits the United States; confers with President Truman and Secretary of State Dean Acheson. The \$500,000,000 STATE OF ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE BOND ISSUE is floated throughout the United States.

July OPERATION EZRA AND NEHEMIA, popularly known as OPERATION ALI BABA, completed with the air transfer of 110,000 Jews from Iraq to Israel since 1950.

### 30 *GENERAL ELECTIONS TO THE SECOND KNESSET*

Results: Mapai—45 seats (First Knesset—46); General Zionists—Center Party—20 (7); Mapam (Left Wing)—15 (19); Hapoel Hamizrahi (Religious Labor)—8; Poale Agudat Israel (Orthodox Labor)—2; Mizrahi (Religious Party)—2; Agudat Israel (Orthodox)—3; (the religious groups united their tickets in the First Knesset elections under a "Religious Bloc" slate and won 16 seats); Herut (Freedom) Movement—8 (14); Communists—5 (4); Progressives—4 (5); Israel Arab Democrats—3 (2); Progressive and Labor (Arab)—1; Agriculture and Development (Arab)—1; Sephardim-Oriental Communities—2 (4); Yemenite Federation—1 (1).

July-  
Sept.

## THE EGYPTIAN BLOCKADE BEFORE THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Ever since the Arab States' aggressive war against Israel in 1948 and even after the Egyptian-Israel Armistice Agreement was concluded, Egypt has maintained a blockade on Israel-bound shipping through the Suez Canal. Various maritime nations, including the United States, France, Britain, Norway, and Sweden have protested against the Egyptian action as a violation of the 1888 Suez Canal Convention. The acting United Nations Mediator Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, who assisted in the negotiations of the Armistice Agreements between Israel and the Arab States, at the 433rd meeting of the Security Council stated that "no vestiges of wartime blockades should be allowed to remain as they are inconsistent with both the letter and the spirit of the Armistice Agreements."

These protests and authoritative statements remained unheeded. Therefore, on July 12, the question of Egypt's blockade was brought by Israel before the Security Council as "jeopardizing the Armistice Agreement and endangering the peace and security of the Middle East." After several meetings, on September 1, the Security Council adopted a resolution calling on Egypt to terminate her blockade practices. So far Egypt has not complied with the Security Council's resolution.

Aug. 23

A TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP, COMMERCE AND NAVIGATION between the United States and Israel was signed in Washington. The treaty, based in general upon the principles of national and of most-favored nation treatment, aims at the regulation and promotion of economic relations between the two countries. It provides for "equitable treatment to the persons, property, enterprises, and other interests of nations and companies" of either party within the country of the other party.

Aug. 14-30

The 23rd Zionist Congress, the representative body of the World Zionist Organization, convened in Israel (Jerusalem) for the first time in its 55 year history. 446 delegates representing Zionist organizations in

43 countries all over the world participated. The Congress devoted its deliberations to the aims and tasks of Zionism in the light of the reestablishment of the State of Israel.

Sept. 13-  
Nov. 19

*PARIS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
PALESTINE CONCILIATION COMMISSION*

The Commission, established by the General Assembly resolution of December 11, 1948 "to assist the Governments and authorities concerned to achieve a final settlement of all questions outstanding between them," made another effort to fulfil its task by inviting the parties to a conference in Paris. The Commission submitted to the representatives of Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Israel a "Comprehensive Pattern of Proposals." These proposals were not discussed by the Arab States and Israel at joint sessions since at no time did the Arab representatives agree to sit together with Israel representatives. Separate conferences were held by the Commission with the Arabs and the Israelis respectively.

The Palestine Conciliation Commission proposed that its proposals should be preceded by a solemn declaration of the parties "to settle all differences, present or future, solely by resort to pacific procedures, refraining from any use of force or acts of hostility." Israel agreed to this declaration, which would be tantamount to a non-aggression pact between the four Arab States and Israel. The Arab States declined, stating that they were prepared to reaffirm the Armistice Agreements provided that it was made clear that these Agreements commit them only to refrain from hostile acts by their armed forces. The Arab position was unacceptable since it would have implied the legality of other hostile acts—contrary to the Security Council's resolution of September 1, condemning Egypt for the Suez Canal blockade. This resolution upheld the view that not merely warlike acts, but any hostile act constituted a violation of the Armistice. Thus, the Arab States' refusal to accept the Palestine Commission's proposed declaration deadlocked the Paris Conference.

- Oct. Mr. David Ben-Gurion (Mapai) forms a new government based on a coalition of Mapai and the religious parties (Mizrahi, Hapoel Hamizrahi, Agudat Israel, and Poale Agudat Israel). On October 8 the basic program of the Government was approved by the Knesset through a vote of confidence in the new Government. The program ensures the continuation of a democratic regime and encouragement of private enterprise, increased production in industry and agriculture, regular supply of essential goods, and measures against inflation.
- Oct. 10 Under the terms of the Mutual Security Act, passed by the Congress of the United States, Israel obtains a \$65,000,000 GRANT-IN-AID for the fiscal year 1951/52. Up to \$50,000,000 was allocated for assistance in the absorption of new immigrants.
- Nov. 19 The Knesset re-elects Dr. Chaim Weizmann as President of Israel for a second term.
- Dec. 31 173,901 IMMIGRANTS ARRIVED IN ISRAEL IN 1951, AND 67 NEW SETTLEMENTS WERE ESTABLISHED.

## 1952

- Jan. 8-9 Knesset debate on Chancellor Konrad Adenauer's offer of September 27, 1951, unanimously endorsed by West-Germany's Parliament, to enter into negotiations with Israel "which has admitted so many homeless Jewish refugees" and representatives of Jewish communities outside Israel in order "to bring about a solution of the material reparation problem." The Knesset referred to its Foreign Affairs Committee the issue of negotiation with West Germany, thus by implication approving such negotiations. During the debate the Foreign Minister, Mr. Moshe Sharett, made the following declaration on behalf of the Government:
- 1) The Government remains firm in its conviction that the responsibility for the destruction of the masses of Jews in Europe rests upon the German nation as a whole;



- 2) The Government sees no convincing signs that anti-Semitism has been eradicated among the German people, whether East or West, even after the war;
- 3) The Government does not regard the recompense as fully remedying the situation, since the claim presented is only the restoration of part of the property taken away from Jews.

Jan. 26 The United Nations General Assembly adopts resolutions 1) endorsing the program for THE RESETTLEMENT OF THE ARAB REFUGEES in the countries of their present abode, submitted by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East; 2) allocating a sum of \$200,000,000 for the implementation of this scheme over a period of approximately three years, and 3) retaining the United Nations Conciliation Commission "to be available to the parties to assist them in reaching agreement on outstanding questions."

Feb. 20 NEW ECONOMIC POLICY

The Knesset approves the Government's new economic policy aimed at combating inflation and increasing productivity, exports and investment. This policy is based on the following principles: 1) The total Government budget, including allocations for defense is to be financed from current revenue incomes—a measure aimed at halting inflation; 2) Stimulation of capital influx from foreign investors and tourists, as well as by increased exports. For this purpose a new exchange rate for the Israel pound was introduced. The rate for investors will be \$1.00 to IL. 1; for tourists and institutions, \$1.40 to IL. 1; (as of October, 1952 \$1.00 to IL. 1); the current exchange rate of \$2.80 to IL. 1 will be retained for the purchase of essential foodstuffs; 3) Far-reaching facilities for the export trade; 4) Increased productivity through introduction of production norms as basis for wage scales; 5) Encouragement of private and cooperative enterprises on a basis of absolute non-discrimination.

- April 1 The Knesset passes the NATIONALITY LAW which went into effect on July 14, 1952. Under the Law, Israel nationality is acquired by virtue of return, birth, residence and naturalization. The law is linked to the Law of Return of July 5, 1950, whereby "every Jew has the right to come to this country as an 'oleh'" (a Jew immigrating to Israel permanently). Hence the Law confers citizenship automatically on every Jew who has permanently immigrated or will immigrate into Israel, because every Jew settling in the country is considered a returning citizen. This is a unique aspect of the Law and is based on "the historical connection of the Jewish people with Palestine Mandate of the League of Nations. The majority of those to whom the Law of Return does not apply acquired Israel nationality automatically by virtue of residence. The Law provides for dual citizenship. Except for naturalized citizens, the acquisition of Israel nationality is not dependent upon renunciation of previous nationality.
- May 7-14 *The International Symposium on Desert Research*, organized by the Israel Research Council with the cooperation of UNESCO, and attended by 45 distinguished foreign scientists and scholars, was held in the new "Binyanei Ha'uma" (Convention Centre) buildings in Jerusalem. This was the first international congress held in the State of Israel. Questions of climate, soil, water and geology in arid areas were discussed.
- June 4 United States Congress grants \$73,000,000 mutual security aid to Israel for the fiscal year 1952/53, for the integration of immigrants and technical assistance.
- Aug. 26 Knesset passes the PETROLEUM LAW which provides the legal framework for the exploration, drilling and production of oil and gas. Under the Law all mineral rights are owned by the State. Exploration and drilling are to be licensed by a Petroleum Commissioner and confined to a maximum area of 250,000 acres in any one of the four contemplated petroleum districts. A licensee who makes a discovery is entitled to a thirty years lease renewable for twenty more years

not exceeding 187,000 acres in one district. The royalty payable to the Israel Treasury is one eighth of the quantity of petroleum produced-in kind or at well-head market value plus IL. 5 for each 250 acres in the first year of the lease increasing gradually to IL. 40 for the fifth and each succeeding year. The licensee or lessee may import duty-free all the machinery and installations required for his operations. The Petroleum Law is designed to attract foreign investors to participate on equal terms with domestic operators in finding and producing oil on a competitive basis as is the practice in the United States and Canada, and on terms that are profitable to the operators and fair to the country.

#### AID TO ARAB REFUGEES

July 1 The Government agreed with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency to assume full responsibility for 19,000 Arab refugees in Israel, formerly supported by the U.N. Agency. The number of registered Arab refugees was originally some 48,000. Even during the period of the U.N.R.W.A. activities in Israel, the Government had provided those refugees with the same social services as those available to other citizens and assisted them in their integration in the economic life of the country, with the result that 20,000 refugees had become self-supporting.

Oct. Although accounts of Jews who left Arab States are still blocked, Israel agreed to release unconditionally \$2,800,000 of blocked accounts of Arab refugees held in Israel banks as a contribution to the alleviation of their hardships. In its report of October 9, the United Nations Palestine Conciliation Commission regarded Israel's action as "an important step towards the settlement of the differences existing between Israel and her neighbors."

#### GERMAN RECOMPENSE AGREEMENT

Sept. 10 The Foreign Minister, Mr. Moshe Sharett, on behalf of Israel, and Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, on be-

half of the Federal Republic of Germany, at Luxembourg signed the agreement on German recompense. The negotiations between the West German Government and the representatives of Israel and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany started on March 21, 1952, at Wassenaar in the Netherlands, and were concluded on August 28. Under the Agreement, West Germany shall pay to Israel, in twelve to fourteen annual installments, 3,450 million Deutsche Mark (\$822,000,000) worth of goods. Of this amount \$715,000,000 are earmarked for Israel as a "global recompense" for "resettling so great a number of uprooted and destitute Jewish refugees from Germany and from territories formerly under German rule," and \$107,000,000 for the benefit of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany to be used for relief and rehabilitation of Jewish survivors of Nazi persecution now living outside Israel. The goods to be delivered by Germany include steel, industrial and agricultural machinery, irrigation equipment and prefabricated houses. The Agreement was ratified by both States in March, 1953.

- Nov. 9 Dr. Chaim Weizmann, First President of Israel, passed away at his residence in Rehovot at 5:55 a.m. on 21 Heshvan, 5713, at the age of 76.
- Nov. 11 President Weizmann was laid to rest in the garden of his residence at Rehovot. The site had been chosen by the President himself.
- Nov. 24 "The Zionist Organization—Jewish Agency Status Law" passed by the Knesset. Under the Law:  
 "The State of Israel recognizes the World Zionist Organization as the authorized agency which shall continue to work in the State of Israel for the settlement and development of the country, for the absorption of immigrants from the Diaspora and for coordination of the activities in Israel of Jewish institutions and associations operating in these spheres."  
 "The provisions of the status and form of cooperation between the World Zionist Organization—

which is represented by the Zionist Executive also called the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine—and the Government will be laid down in a Convention to be concluded in Israel between the Government and the Zionist Executive.”

## PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

- Dec. 1 Israel submitted to the United Nations a “Blueprint for Peace in the Middle East.” In a speech before the Ad Hoc Political Committee of the Seventh Session of the General Assembly, Ambassador Abba E. Eban outlined Israel’s proposition for direct peace negotiations with the Arab States on all the aspects of Arab-Israel relations, viz: (1) Security Questions, (2) Territorial Questions, (3) Refugee Questions, (4) Economic Questions, (5) Regional Cooperation; a) Communications, b) Social and Health Questions, c) Scientific and Cultural Questions, d) Technical Assistance Cooperation, (6) Questions of Diplomatic and Juridical Relations.
- 11 The Eight Power Resolution reaffirming the principle “that the Governments concerned have the primary responsibility for reaching a settlement of their outstanding differences” and urging the Arab States and Israel “to enter at an early date into direct negotiations for the establishment of such a settlement” was passed by the Ad Hoc Political Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (32 for, 13 against, 13 abstained), but failed to get the required two-thirds majority in the Plenary Meeting (December 18). In the course of action on the eight-power resolution, the Plenary Meeting declined, for the second time since the Fifth Session in 1950, to reaffirm the principle of the internationalization of Jerusalem.
- 8 KNESSET ELECTS MR. YITZHAK BEN-ZVI PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL.
- 22 Mr. Ben-Gurion’s new five-party Coalition Government and its program were approved by the Knesset. The 16-man Cabinet includes Mapai (9), General Zion-

ist (4), Hapoel Hamizrahi (2), Progressives (1). The 20-point program provides for the encouragement of private foreign investment and the termination of all inefficient or unnecessary controls. A unified educational system in all primary schools will be set up, with religious education for all children of parents who desire it, and recognizing the "parents' right to very and expand education—without detracting from the obligatory minimum." The foreign policy of the Government will continue to pursue peace and cooperation in the Middle East and endeavor to achieve recognition of "the right of Jews in all countries to emigrate to Israel."

Nov. 20- Dec. 3	PRAGUE TRIALS. In the course of the trial of fourteen leading Czechoslovak communists libelous charges are made against the Government of Israel and its duly accredited diplomatic representatives in Eastern Europe, against Zionist organizations, individual Zionists and the American Joint Distribution Committee, as well as reference made to the Jewish origin of the defendants. Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett brands trial as anti-Jewish incitement in Nazi tradition in speech to the Knesset (November 24). Two Israel citizens who appeared as witnesses at the major trial, were sentenced at secret trials to life and 15 years' imprisonment respectively in August and October 1953.
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## 1953

Jan. 13- April 4	THE MOSCOW SHARGES. Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett in statement to the Knesset denounces anti-Jewish campaign accompanying the charges made by the Soviet authorities against a number of Soviet Jewish physicians accused of plotting against the Soviet regime. After withdrawal of these charges, Israel Government expresses satisfaction at their repudiation by the Soviet authorities.
Feb. 12- July 20	Soviet Union severs diplomatic relations with Israel, accusing the Israel Government of connivance in the bomb explosion at the Soviet Legation in Tel Aviv

(February 9). Diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel were resumed on July 20.

- March 26 Official opening of the forty-eight mile Beersheba-Sdom road connecting the Potash Works in Sdom, at the southern end of the Dead Sea, with the road network of the country.
- April 2- The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Moshe Sharett,  
May 12 tours the United States and countries of South America. He is received by President Eisenhower at the White House (April 9), visits Argentina, Chile, and Brazil as guest of their governments. Cultural agreements were signed with Argentina and Chile.
- May 13-14 John Foster Dulles, United States Secretary of State, and Harold Stassen, Mutual Security Administrator, visit Israel, and are received by President Yitzhak Ben Zvi and Prime Minister Ben-Gurion.
- June 7-11 Mr. Adlai E. Stevenson, Democratic candidate in the 1952 American presidential elections, visits Israel and is received by the Premier and Foreign Minister.
- 9 Major General Vagn Bennike of Denmark appointed Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, replacing General William E. Riley.
- 15-17 Prime Minister David F. Malan of the Union of South Africa visits Israel and is received by Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion and Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett.
- 12 Foreign Ministry transferred to Jerusalem, completing move of Government offices to Jerusalem begun in 1949.
- Aug. 4-11 Seventh International Congress on History of Science attended by over 80 delegates from Israel and abroad held in Jerusalem.
- 12 Knesset passes STATE EDUCATION LAW which abolishes the trend system and establishes a unified school system. It also provides for the establishment of State religious schools to meet the requirements of the religious sections of the community.

- 19 Knesset passes Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Law, which establishes YAD VASHEM, a Memorial Authority for the perpetuation of the memory of the six million Jewish victims of Nazi oppression. World-wide observance of a special Memorial Day to be designated by the Knesset is to be promoted.
- 20 Knesset passes JUDGES LAW which separates the judiciary from the executive by the establishment of an Appointments Committee on whose recommendation the President appoints all judges. The Law regulates the qualifications, responsibilities and separations of judges.
- 26 Knesset passes NATIONAL SERVICE LAW which provides for civilian national service for girls exempt from regular military service on religious grounds, and which exempts from any kind of national service girls whose traditional way of life is inconsistent with any employment outside their home environment.

Sept. 2- *THE B'NOT YA'ACOV HYDROELECTRIC*  
Jan. 24, 1954 *PROJECT*

The construction of the B'not Ya'acov hydroelectric project on the Jordan, under a private concession granted by the British Mandatory Government for the utilization of the waters of the rivers Jordan and Yarmuk for generating and supplying electric energy, was started. The project consists of a canal nine miles in length, one and a half miles of which passes through the Demilitarized Zone between Syria and Israel.

*On October 16*, Syria lodged a complaint against the project with the Security Council alleging that the Canal will encroach on irrigation rights of Syrians and constitute a military advantage for Israel. Israel denied these charges and expressed its willingness to give a binding undertaking to safeguard the rights of Arab landowners or cultivators which might be effected by the Canal. Israel also denied Syria's right to interfere with the project since the Syrian frontier at no point touches the Jordan river.

*On October 27*, the Government of Israel temporarily suspended the work in the Demilitarized Zone pend-



ing the urgent examination of the question by the Security Council.

*On January 22*, the Security Council voted upon a draft resolution submitted by the United States, United Kingdom and France, instructing the Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization to reconcile the rights of individuals in the Demilitarized Zone with the hydroelectric project. Colombia, Denmark, France, New Zealand, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States voted in favor; Lebanon and the Soviet Union against with Brazil and China abstaining. Although the seven votes required for the passage of the resolution were obtained the negative vote by the Soviet Union constitutes a veto and defeated the resolution.

*On January 24*, the Israel Government declared that the outcome of the Security Council's deliberations "signifies the failure of Syria's complaint against Israel which caused the Security Council to be seized of the problem."

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|-------|-------|---|
| Sept. | 16    | Israel elected to Vice-Presidency of the United Nations Eighth General Assembly.  |
|       | 20-29 | Fourth Maccabia held at the Ramat Gan stadium; 852 sportsmen from 23 nations participate.   |
| Sept. | 22-   | The Conquest of the Desert International Exhibition and Fair takes place in Jerusalem, the first international exhibition in Israel, and the first ever devoted to the reclamation of deserts. Over 500 private firms, organizations and governments from 22 nations participate, as well as United Nations agencies. Over 600,000 visitors from Israel and abroad tour the exhibition. |
| Oct.  | 14    |   |
| Oct.  | 25-29 | Second Jerusalem Economic Conference convened by the Israel Government attended by 150 leaders of Jewish communities from the United States, Great Britain, France, Canada, South Africa, Argentina, Australia, Mexico, and Switzerland. The Conference resolves to continue economic aid of World Jewry for the development of Israel.   |

- 29 "Yad Chaim Weizmann," memorial to the First President of Israel, formally dedicated at Rehovot on eve of first anniversary of his death according to the Hebrew calendar.
- Nov. 18 Knesset passes NATIONAL INSURANCE LAW as first installment of a comprehensive Social Security Plan. The law provides for old-age pensions, workmen's compensation, and maternity payments and establishes a Social Insurance Institute to administer the law.

### SECURITY SITUATION ON ISRAEL-JORDAN BORDER

Since the conclusion of the Israel-Jordan General Armistice Agreement on April 3, 1949 through March 1954, 513 Israelis have been killed and wounded through raids from Jordan territory. During the same period the Jordanians committed over a thousand cases of armed attacks, 300 cases of sabotage and armed robbery and close to 4,000 thefts.

*In January 1953*, Israel proposed a high level meeting of Israel and Jordan representatives to coordinate their efforts in combating border incidents. *On April 23*, General William. E Riley, Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization submitted this proposal to the Jordan authorities, However, Jordan refused to respond.

*On April 8*, Israel drew again the attention of the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, France and Turkey to the "steadily deteriorating situation on the border."

*On June 8*, the Local Commander's Agreement between Israel and Jordan was renewed. The agreement provided for the coordination of the activities of local Commanders aimed at combating infiltration. However, in the course of the week immediately following the signing of this agreement a renewed wave of murderous attacks by Jordanians took place. The Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission condemned Jordan for attacking Tirat Yehuda throwing hand-grenades and killing one Israeli *on June 10*; for

attacking Kfar Hess, blowing up a house, killing a woman and wounding her husband *on June 11*, and called on Jordan to prevent attacks "which have caused dangerous tension between the two sides."

*On June 23* Israel informed the Government of the the United States of the serious incidents which occurred after the signing of the Local Commanders' Agreement and of the highly inflamed public opinion in Israel brought about by this new outbreak of nightly murders, pointing out that the patience of the inhabitants of Israel in the areas bordering Jordan are nearing the breaking point.

*On July 23* the Israel Delegation to the United Nations submitted to the Secretary-General of the Nations a memorandum on the tense situation on the Israel-Jordan border with the request that it be circulated among the member states. After summarizing the attacks and infiltration which have been perpetrated on Israel's borders, the memorandum pointed out that the only means of avoiding incidents threatening the peace and security of the area is the readiness of the Arab Governments concerned "to take strict and effective measures in accordance with their obligations under the Armistice Agreements to bring to an end the lawlessness which has so gravely affected life and property in Israel."

During the months *January-September* the number of criminal border crossings from Jordan was about 1,800, which resulted in 127 Israel casualties.

*On October 4* Jordanian units attacked a crowded passenger bus in the Lod area.

*On October 6* the Haifa-Tel Aviv passenger train was attacked in the coastal plain from across the Jordanian border.

*On October 11* a Jordanian gang attacked the village of Neve-Ilan in the Jerusalem hills and murdered a settler in his bed.

*On October 13* Jordanian infiltrators attacked the village of Yehudiya on the outskirts of Tel Aviv and murdered a mother of five children, her 3½ year old girl and 1½ year old boy. A 70 year old woman and one child in the same home was seriously wounded.

*On October 15* a group of outraged settlers of some frontier villages attacked in retaliation the Arab village of Kibya.

*On October 19* the Prime Minister, Mr. David Ben-Gurion, while deploring the loss of life in these attacks laid the responsibility with the Government of Jordan which for years has tolerated and thereby encouraged acts of murder and pillage against the inhabitants of Israel.

*On November 24* the Security Council adopted a resolution censuring Israel for the Kibya incident and requesting the Governments of Jordan and Israel to take effective measures to ensure the prevention of illegal crossings of the Armistice Line, acts of violence and violations of the Armistice Agreement.

Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion termed the Security Council's resolution "a clear discrimination between the blood of one people and that of another. While censuring Israel for the Kibya affair the powers by their silence condone in effect the murders committed by armed forces of the Kingdom of Jordan including those perpetrated by members of the Arab Legion both before the Kibya incident and since, until the present date." The Prime Minister cautioned that the resolution "cannot but encourage further murderous attacks by armed bands from Jordan."

*On March 17, 1954*, a gang of Jordanian marauders massacred eleven Israelis, among them women and children. The victims were passengers in a bus on the road from Elat to Beersheba. The Jordanian gang ambushed the bus near Maaleh Akrabim (Scorpion Pass). Israel immediately lodged a complaint against Jordan with the Israel Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission chaired by a representative of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization. Tracks proved that the gang came from the direction of the Jordanian border and returned towards it.

*On March 23* at the meeting of the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission the chairman abstained from voting on the draft resolution condemning Jordan for the Scorpion Pass massacre. Following the meeting a spokesman of the Israel Government de-

clared that "not only did the Armistice Regime prove incapable of preventing the wanton onslaught but after it occurred the United Nations staff of observers did not see a way to fix the responsibility for the crime, thereby demonstrating its own impotence in preventing the occurrence of such monstrous deeds. The result of the Commission's examinations will most likely encourage aggressive criminal elements in Arab countries who assuredly learn from this experience that they may carry out such outrages with impunity." In these circumstances the Government decided to discontinue its participation in the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission.

Nov. 23- *ARTICLE XII OF THE ISRAEL-JORDAN*  
April 5, 1954 *ARMISTICE AGREEMENT*

Israel formally requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to convoke an Israel-Jordan Conference under Article XII of the Israel-Jordan General Armistice Agreement in view of the need for swift action to prevent the further impairment of peace and security in the area. Under this Article participation in such a conference for the purpose of reviewing or revising of the Armistice Agreement "shall be obligatory upon the Parties."

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dag Hammarskjöld, stated that he is "duty-bound to summon the conference requested," and accordingly invited Israel and Jordan to attend the conference. Israel responded favorably to the Secretary-General's invitation while Jordan in her notes of January 4, February 6, and March 24 refused to respond to the Secretary-General's invitation.

On April 5, Israel complained to the Security-Council, charging Jordan with violation of her international obligation under the Israel-Jordan Armistice Agreement.

Dec. 7- David Ben-Gurion, Prime Minister and Minister of  
Jan. 26, 1954 Defense since the establishment of the State of Israel, resigns because of "extreme weariness" and retires to Sde Boker, agricultural settlement in the Negev. President Ben Zvi entrusts Foreign Minister and Acting

Prime Minister Moshe Sharett with the task of forming a new government. Mr. Sharett's new coalition government, composed of the same parties and carrying on the same policies as Mr. Ben-Gurion's cabinet, is formally constituted by the vote of confidence in the Knesset.

## 1954

Jan. 28-  
March 29

### *COMPLAINT AGAINST EGYPT'S VIOLATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON SUEZ*

For more than two years Egypt has been violating the Security Council Resolution of September 1, 1951 calling upon her to terminate the blockade practices against Israel bound shipping and goods passing through the Suez Canal. At the end of 1953 Egypt has intensified her blockade practices to cover even foodstuffs and extended the interference with Israel bound shipping passing through the Gulf of Aqaba en route to the Israel port of Elat.

*On January 28*, Israel lodged a complaint against Egypt with the Security Council against Egyptian violations of the Egyptian-Israel Armistice Agreement of February 24, 1949 and the Security Council Resolution of September 1951.

*On March 19*, New Zealand submitted a draft resolution to the Security Council which recalls the resolution of September 1, 1951; "notes with grave concern that Egypt has not complied with that resolution;" calls upon Egypt to comply therewith and refers the complaint against Egyptian interference with shipping passing the Gulf of Aqaba to the Israel-Egyptian Mixed Armistice Commission.

*On March 20*, the draft resolution received the eight affirmative votes of Brazil, Colombia, Denmark, France, New Zealand, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States of America; China abstained, Lebanon and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics voted against. Although seven affirmative votes are sufficient to pass a resolution in the Security Council the negative vote of the Union of Soviet Socialist Re-

publics constituted a veto and thus defeated the resolution.

*On March 30*, the Government of Israel declared that the outcome of the Security Council vote does not detract from Israel's rights in the slightest degree. Israel will exercise these rights with all the legal means at her disposal, including the reliance upon the Security Council Resolution of September 1, 1951 which remains in force.

- Jan. 14 Israel admitted to the World Bank for Reconstruction and Development and to the International Monetary Fund.
- Feb. 16 Knesset abolishes capital punishment for murder, retaining death penalty only for persons convicted of aiding the Nazis.

#### *MILITARY AID TO ARABS OPPOSED*

- March 8 Prime Minister Moshe Sharett reiterates in the Knesset Israel's opposition to the delivery of arms by the United States or any other state to any Arab country. Since the Tripartite Declaration of 1950 Israel has repeatedly warned the Western Powers that the grant of arms was at variance with the Tripartite Declaration, and that the sole purpose of arms so dispatched would be their use against Israel, as openly declared in speeches and documents by Arab statesmen. The Arab states have repeatedly declared their unwillingness to associate themselves with the defense of the free world.
- March 28 The first International Planning Conference for Israel convened in Washington and launches the \$350,000,000 STATE OF ISRAEL DEVELOPMENT BOND ISSUE for the industrial and agricultural development of Israel to be offered for subscription in the United States, Canada, Latin America and Western Europe. The Development Bonds follow the successful Independence Bonds issue floated in 1951, which within 3 years sold \$160,000,000 worth of bonds for the consolidation of Israel's economy. Savings Bonds for

denominations from \$100 to \$10,000 will mature at 150% of their issue price in ten years. Fifteen-year 4% Coupon Bonds in denomination from \$500 to \$100,000 are also being offered.

April 5 Israel complained to the Security Council against Jordan's repudiation of the Israel-Jordan General Armistice Agreement. The complaint enumerated the following violations:

Armed attack on the bus near Scorpion Pass resulting in the murder of 11 Israelis; violation of Article XII of the General Armistice Agreement by her refusal to attend the conference convoked by the Secretary General under this Article; persistent attacks and raids committed by regular and irregular Jordanian forces against the lives and property of Israeli citizens in violation of Articles I, III and IV of the Armistice Agreement; refusal by Jordan to carry out her obligations under Article VIII of the Armistice Agreement which provides for free access to Israel's cultural and health institutions on Mount Scopus, free access to the Jewish holy places and the cemetery on the Mount of Olives which are under Jordan control.

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